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Department of Insurance sponsors free forums to help Northern Kentucky seniors with Medicare choices

FRANKFORT, Ky. - The Kentucky Department of Insurance will sponsor three public forums on Oct. 30 and 31 to help Northern Kentucky senior citizens sort through their options for Medicare insurance.

Sessions are scheduled as follows:

- Monday, Oct. 30, 9-11 a.m., Campbell County Extension Office, 3500 Alexandria Pike, Highland Heights.
- Monday, Oct. 30, 2-4 p.m., Lakeside Christian Church, 195 Buttermilk Pike, Ft. Mitchell.
- Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2-4 p.m., Lakeside Christian Church, 195 Buttermilk Pike, Ft. Mitchell.

Many senior citizens need help understanding the changes in Northern Kentucky since Medicare HMOs pulled out of the market there and nationwide. As a state regulator protecting consumers, the Department of Insurance called for the free forums as a public service for those needing information and help.

The department's Kentucky Insurance Program for Seniors (KIPS) staff will conduct the meetings, provide detailed information and answer questions. Other organizations and government agencies expected to participate in the program are the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield, the Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) and AdminaStar Federal.

In addition to the Department of Insurance, representatives from St. Elizabeth and St. Luke Hospitals, Medicaid, Palmetto Government, the Social Security Administration, Northern Kentucky Advocacy Group and Northern Kentucky Legal Aid are expected to participate.

For more information, please call the Department of Insurance at 1-800-595-6053 and ask to speak to someone with KIPS. Newly published consumer guides to Medicare Supplement Insurance and to Long-Term Care Insurance also will be available to the public for free at the sessions. The guides detail the rates charged for Medicare Supplement and Long-Term Care benefits and allow consumers to compare and shop.

Due to limited seating at the extension office, those planning to attend the Campbell County session should call (859) 292-3820 for reservations. Reservations are not needed for the public sessions at Lakeside Christian Church.